

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

February 24, 2015

**INTRODUCTION**

On January 31, 2015, over 100 persons attended an Anti-Human Trafficking Workshop in Springfield Virginia. After hearing from a series of Human Trafficking experts the attendees broke into seven small groups to develop recommendations for combating human trafficking, both sex exploitation and labor trafficking. The purpose was to generate actions that can be put into place by Aglow Lighthouses; churches; civic, service, business and social organizations; and individuals. Following is a compilation of the recommended actions that came from those small group discussions.

These proposed actions were developed by people who had decided that it is necessary to deal with this growing plague in their communities. That was the easy part; now it is time to convert these recommendations into real actions. No one person or organization is expected to act on all or even many of the following suggestions; but there is something(s) for everyone to accomplish. ***LET’S GET BUSY!!!!***

**PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**Prayer**

1. Establish monthly prayer meetings (example: First Friday at Greencastle PA truck stop)
2. Include Human Trafficking (HT) prayers as part of all existing meetings (Bible studies, Aglow Lighthouse meetings, small groups, Sunday school classes, etc.)
3. Conduct prayer walks or prayer “drives” around local schools, colleges, courts, U.S. and state Capitols
4. Pray for labor trafficking, fair trade, as well as for sex exploitation
5. Pray for communities, establishments that foster trafficking, law enforcement officials
6. Let police and government officials know we are praying for them

**Awareness-Education**

1. Educate yourself, family and friends, particularly those with children, grandchildren
2. Share what you know about HT at church, small groups, work, talking one-on-one
3. Post HT information on Facebook, Twitter, other forms of social media
4. Build relationships and get local and area media involved (radio, cable & network TV, newspapers, magazines) [visit [www.easymedialist.com](http://www.easymedialist.com), get list for your state]
5. Contribute HT information to church, community and other newsletters – share statistics, stories, organizations that assist victims
6. Get resources to PTA’s, Boys/Girls Clubs, Scouts, 4H, civic groups, Young Life, church youth groups, business groups

* Topics: How to keep children safe while on Internet
* Video: Tricked, by Fairfax County Public Schools
* Raise funds to get videos in every school

1. Make information known and available on college campuses: Cares Clubs, Christian Athletes Association, Crusade for Christ, counselors
2. Make human trafficking, with a focus on sex trafficking, a part of middle and high school curricula and other school events
3. Hold/sponsor anti-trafficking awareness events; for example, workshops, dinners, runs, walk-a-thons, community meetings, living room discussions
4. Make known and distribute available materials
5. Obtain mailing lists from organizations and send information; provide information to organizations so they can distribute to their members
6. Put trafficking information on the websites of churches and other organizations
7. Create and distribute Public Service Announcements for radio station broadcasting
8. Add trafficking to the agenda of regular meetings
9. Add to the messages at church youth groups, sermons, by showing videos, having guest speakers
10. Do your own research to increase your knowledge. Share what you learn in conversations and group settings

**Protection/Prevention**

1. Don’t let young children be alone
2. Inform children how to protect themselves and their brothers, sisters and friends
3. Have and encourage others to have open “nothing off-limits” communications
4. Check backgrounds of people involved with children
5. Check sex offender’s list [visit [www.stopitnow.org](http://www.stopitnow.org); FAQs on the Sex Offenders Registry; search Sex Offenders Registry for your state; for example, MD’s list is available at www.dpsds.state.md]
6. Learn the indicators shown by people being trafficked
7. Take cell phone pictures of suspicious activities
8. Use the National Human Trafficking Hotline telephone number,1-888-373-7888, if you suspect trafficking activity [visit [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org); National Human Trafficking Resource Center]
9. Distribution information about the Hotline; for example, post it in ladies’ rooms and other gathering places for young girls and women

**Internet/Social Media**

1. Assure responsible use (self-control, family control) of internet/social media
2. Restrict access to pornography, negative/destructive computer websites, cable TV programs, etc.
3. Provide information regarding apps, filters and other ways to manage/restrict access to harmful media.
4. Explain to young people the negative aspects of social media use
5. Install the Vigilante Trucker app on your cell phone, take pictures of suspicious activity and send to Vigilante Trucker; investigation will follow [Vigilante Trucker – Android app on Google & Vigilante Trucker on the App Store on iTunes – Apple]
6. Spread the word about the Vigilante Trucker app [see5) above]

**ASSIST OTHER PEOPLE**

1. See something, Say something, Speak up – Use the National Hot Line 1-888-373-7888 [See Protection item 8) above]
2. Make people and organizations aware of the National Hot Line, free help is available 24 hours a day in over 170 languages: 1-888-373-7888 [See Protection item 8) above]
3. Be careful not to judge or criticize, even when praying
4. Create safe havens, make your home available, house a victim
5. Explore the creation of mentorship programs, train mentors for victims and perpetrators
6. Adopt a person in recovery
7. Provide parenting skills: in homes, at churches, at schools
8. Establish a continuing working relationship with law enforcement departments/agencies
9. Reestablish the environment in which neighbors looked out for each other’s children

**TREATMENT/CARE FOR VICTIMS**

1. Support existing organizations financially

* Host fundraiser events
* Hold yard sales – donate proceeds
* Support Change Purse with donations, purchases, auctions at home parties
* Make/sell jewelry and other items
* Designated Aglow offerings

1. Learn about care and treatment services and resources (counseling, mental health) and facilities; make the information available
2. Give baskets and other gifts to residents of safe houses
3. Write encouraging notes/cards to rescued victims
4. Offer (Lighthouses) to conduct Bible studies at safe houses and detention locations
5. Get prayer requests from shelters/ministries to pray for specific individuals
6. Provide jobs, alternative sources of income, for victims and released perpetrators
7. Get involved in foster care
8. Stress the importance of care and treatment of victims rather than punishment

**TREATMENT/CARE FOR TRAFFICKERS**

1. Pray for changed hearts
2. Pray for apprehension
3. Expand prison ministries in number and in trafficking subject matter
4. Increase the involvement of men to rehabilitate men [www.puredesire.org [“For Men”]

**ADDRESS THE DEMAND (BUYERS) SIDE**

1. Increase your knowledge regarding the connection between pornography and sex-exploitation
2. Provide information regarding availability of treatments for sex and pornography addiction
3. Make information available regarding healing treatments available for pastors, church leaders and people who attend church (men & women) struggling with pornography and/or sex addiction

[www.puredesire.org; [“For Men”]

**SHOW THAT YOU CARE – BE PROACTIVE**

**Increase Your Presence**

1. Raise your voice, get involved
2. Get involved with Human Trafficking organizations, volunteer time and services to help meet the needs of these organizations
3. Assist organizations providing treatment services
4. Participate in Neighborhood Watch and with similar groups
5. Make yourself and organizations known to schools, police/law enforcement, churches, community groups, service clubs, etc.
6. Encourage men to become more involved in educating, mentoring, enhancing awareness and helping particularly male victims and traffickers and the general public

**Support-Advocate**

1. Contact lawmakers (City, County, State and Congressional) to enact better laws: what do they need, how can you help, encourage them to act, reach out to them in person, mail, email, telephone, committee testimony, attend events they will attend and “corner” them [Information is available on-line related to the US Congress, State and local elected officials; for example, a search on Maryland or Virginia General Assembly will provide information regarding, members, contact information, bills being considered and their status, committees[
2. Lobby for stronger penalties
3. Urge friends, coworkers, committee/group members to contact their legislators as above
4. Pray that Washington DC law enforcement officials recognize the importance of dealing with the HT problems
5. Contact elected officials and police officials In Washington DC and stress the importance of confronting the HT problems in their City [on-line search for DC Mayor, Council and Chief of Police]
6. Find out what businesses do not practice fair trade
7. Buy only from companies with fair trade practices
8. Do not buy from companies with a record of labor trafficking
9. Provide financial support to anti-trafficking organizations and treatment services, including domestic violence shelters
10. Determine what services are being provided by government agencies and advocate for change where appropriate